

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The written description portion of the specification, claims 1, 4-9, and 11, and the abstract of the disclosure have been amended. Claims 2, 3, and 10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 4-9, and 11 are now pending in the application. Claims 1 and 6 are independent. The rejections are respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The specification has been editorially amended for conformance with 37 CFR § 1.77(c), for consistency, and to correct any informalities. The abstract has been editorially amended for conformance with 37 CFR § 1.72(b). The claims have been amended to overcome each ground of rejection, and in general to more fully comply with U.S. practice.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate features of the invention previously presented in now-canceled claims 2 and 3. Independent claim 6 has been amended to define a machine that performs the process defined by instant claim 1. Entry of each of the amendments is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) - Dellbruegge

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 19501668 to Dellbruegge.

The rejection of claims 1-11 under § 102(b) based on Dellbruegge is respectfully deemed to be obviated. The disclosure of Dellbruegge does not anticipate Applicants' presently claimed invention.

Dellbruegge's process is different from Applicants' presently claimed process. Dellbruegge discloses a process for the preparation of sheets. The extruded film tube (10), the outer circumference of which exhibits a sticky film layer, is transported through a flat laying device (not shown in Figure 1). Then, the film tube is cut into two different film webs (10' 10"). First, one of the film webs (10') is transported through the reversing device according to Figures 2 and 3 and is thereby turned at 180° (column 3, lines 25-26). Then, the *sticky side* of the reversed film web (10') is laid on the non-sticky side of film web (10"), and both film webs (10', 10") are transported through a second reversing device (30, 32, 34, 36) (column 3, lines 26-29). Disadvantageously the film webs (10', 10") traverse a different long path having different lengths until they meet each other again.

That is not Applicant's presently claimed process. Instant claim 1 defines a process that includes placing the

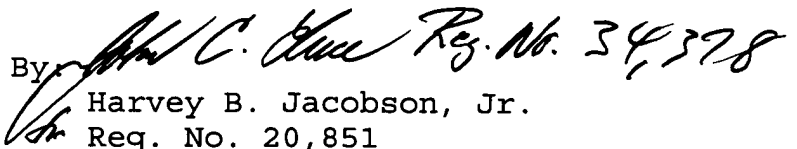
surfaces that had formed an interior surface of the film tube into contact with each other. See the disclosure at specification page 3/7, first paragraph.

Since Dellbruegge does not meet each feature of the claimed invention, Dellbruegge does not anticipate the invention defined by Applicant's instant claim 1. Pending claims 4 and 5 are allowable because they depend from claim 1, and for other reasons. Apparatus claim 6 is similarly allowable, as are claims 7-9 and 11 which depend therefrom.

In view of the foregoing, this application is now in condition for allowance. If the examiner believes that an interview might expedite prosecution, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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